



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

a troop of faithful adherents, and gives their possessions to a stranger, who acknowledges only the common bonds of duty, but feels none of those livelier sentiments which bind the tenant to his lord, and both to their country.

Sir John. You grow warm.

Mr. Freeman. My intimate acquaintance with your Father, and my regard for you, from a child, must plead my excuse with you for the earnestness into which this subject always betrays me.

Sir John. My dear sir, make no apology, I respect your zeal, and admire your energy; but I think I shall be able coolly to prove to you that in Ireland, more than any where else, the destruction of small farms should be particularly accomplished to check if possible that over population, the source of all our misfortunes.

Mr. Freeman. You are a disciple of Malthus.

Sir John. A true and zealous disciple, Mr. Freeman; to morrow we will renew our conversation, I must now hurry away to give directions about the levelling of some old cottages upon a farm of which I have just now got the possession. I hope soon in the same way to demolish Robert Thomas's hovels—yes, yes—Mr. Freeman, whatever it may cost our feelings, we must check the over population of Ireland.

To the Proprietors of the Belfast Magazine.

GENTLEMEN,
IN your Magazine for last month, page 457, you give an extract from the Phil. Mag. vol. 34, page 378, respecting a method of obtaining flax from broom, by Mr. Hall, who it appears claims the discovery as his, and of course announces it to the world as new. If he does, he is wrong,* as it has been long known in France, for Mr. Broussonet,

in *Mémoires d'agriculture, par la Société de Paris*, 1785, trimestre d'automne page, 127, has also recommended the Cultivation of the broom under the name of *genet d'espagne* and has enumerated the many uses to which it may be applied. The people of Lower Languedoc especially in the neighbourhood of Lodeve, make of it table cloths, shirts, and other articles of dress. From the above extract, you will see that the manufacture of flax from broom, has long been carried to perfection in that part of France, and it is probable that other countries may at this moment be employing it in the same way. Mr. Hall however deserves the thanks of his countrymen for calling their attention to the manufactory of an article, that has hitherto in these kingdoms, been considered as of little use. I am, gentlemen, &c. Z.

To the Proprietors of the Belfast Magazine.

ON INDIAN CORN ADAPTED TO A COLD CLIMATE.

PROBABLY the information contained in the following extract of a letter may be acceptable to some of your readers. At least it will show the liberality of the late American president, and that whatever measures he may find himself forced to pursue as a statesman, he is still a philanthropist in his wish to add to the means of subsistence of the inhabitants of the British isles. "A letter has been received from Mr. Bradbury who went out to collect plants in America for the Botanic gardens of Liverpool and Dublin. He has been with Mr. Jefferson, who enters very warmly into the plan, and has offered his garden as a dépôt for any plants he may collect, which he will, should there be a war, send to Liverpool. He also informed Mr. Bradbury that Captain Lewis, whom he, when President of the United States, sent

* That the use of broom flax has been long known, and consequently was not discovered by Mr. Hall, was noticed in the remarks, on the abridgment of his pa-

per, in our 17th number, p. 457; we are however obliged to Z. for the above particulars in confirmation of our former statement.

B.M.M.

to explore the Missouri, had in Lat. 49, at a vast distance from the mouth of the Missouri, and in so elevated a situation as to present a climate like Greenland, discovered a species of *zea* (maize) very productive, that will grow on the Highlands of Scotland, and also a species of the *holcus sorghum* (Indian millet) still more productive; some of the plants measured 14 feet in height. Mr. Jefferson thought they would be of great importance to Great Britain, and has promised to send some seeds of each to Mr. Roscoe. Mr Bradbury has found several new and beautiful plants, as, two *cypripedium* (lady's slipper) two *orchidea* &c. He has also found the *Sesamum indicum* which is very productive of oil. He is now exploring Louisiana, which has not yet been visited by any botanist. This account is interesting, as if true, it will enable us to keep at a distance for some time the evils which Malthus predicts. Mr. Bradbury says, Captain Lewis, is cultivating the maize and millet with success at Louisville. Lewis found a tribe of cultivating Indians, but not the Welsh colony which they have been so long seeking."

K.

To the Proprietors of the Belfast Magazine.

ANSWER TO QUERIES OF M. OF LAMBEG.
GENTLEMEN,

YOUR Correspondent M. of Lambeg, inquires how bleachers may know if barilla ash, and potash contain fixed air (carbonic acid gas)

2. How to separate fixed air from the lees of the above ashes, and,

3. If the lees from said ashes are not freed from the fixed air they contain, how far using them in that state will retard their operation in the process of bleaching linen with them.

In the first place then it is certain that potash and barilla ash in their usual form, always contain fixed air; in fact they are both carbonates, viz. salts whose base is combined with carbonic acid, the one is a carbonate of potash, and the other a carbonate of soda.

Now to free the potash or soda, from the fixed air, we must employ

BELFAST MAG. NO. XX.

some agent which has a stronger affinity for carbonic acid, than they have; for this purpose lime in its pure or caustic state is every way most eligible; when lime comes in contact with carbonate of potash or soda, the carbonic acid quits the potash or soda to unite with the lime, the result of this combination is potash or soda in its pure or caustic state, and carbonate of lime (common chalk) which being insoluble in water falls in a precipitate to the bottom, and leaves the potash or soda, dissolved in the water.

The easiest way for the bleacher, will be to make his lee as strong as possible in the usual way, and then to add to it by degrees, while hot, lime water, until the precipitate ceases to fall; the vessel must then be covered so as to prevent the admission of the air until the liquor becomes clear, it is then to be decanted off for use. We may ascertain whether it contains any lime, by adding a little lee, when there will be a precipitate, or on the contrary, whether the carbonic acid be entirely separated by dropping in a little lime water. The operator may however soon discover by a few experiments on the small scale, how much lime water will be necessary to disengage the fixed air from a certain portion of lee of a given strength; by this means any quantity of the pure liquor may be prepared at once.

In answer to the third query, it may be observed, that if the utility of these salts in bleaching depends on their alkaline quality (which I believe no one will doubt) then the stronger or more alkaline they are, the more effectually will they answer the purpose; the means then of giving them this property in perfection is to deprive them of their fixed air, which blunts their powers and renders them comparatively useless in proportion to the quantity they contain. The fixed air is an acid, which like every acid more or less neutralizes the alkali to which it is joined. Bleachers however should be aware of this fact, for the more their lee is deprived of fixed air, the more caustic will it become; it is necessary therefore that it be largely diluted, so as to